

SECRET
Security Information

10 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, RQM

ATTENTION : ☐ ☒ RQM/FI/DB

FROM : Chief, WHD

SUBJECT : Destan Berisha

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

1. This memorandum is to confirm the meeting of 15 June 1953 held in ☐
☒ office re Subject individual, at which the following persons were
present: ☐ ☐ ☐ and Messrs. ☐ ☐ and ☐
☒ WH/IV/KO.

2. Subject has been at DTROBALO since January 1953. He has been unhappy and on a sit-down strike since his arrival there. He has refused to attend classes or to cooperate in any way in the training program and is bitterly opposed to resettlement in South America. He has complained that he never should have been sent to DTROBALO, and wants no part of the vocational rehabilitation or academic programs. His sole desire is to return to farm work and to marry his fiancée who is now in Greece. Moreover, he has threatened another trainee with physical violence.

not full
3. DTROBALO was originally requested to accept Subject because his immediate movement from Greece was necessary: A domestic scandal had resulted from Subject's fathering of an illegitimate child to a young girl, and, in order to protect the security of operations during court action, the Greek authorities pacified the girl's parents by stating that Subject would be expelled from the country. Consequently, DTROBALO offered the only resettlement possibility consistent with Subject's past services to the Agency.

4. DTROBALO has repeatedly attempted to reason with Subject. Recently, Subject's former case officer wrote a letter in which he advised Subject to adhere to the promises he had made, reminded Subject that he had agreed to accept the conclusions reached, advised Subject that the present solution was the best for him, and admonished Subject to follow the advice of his superiors. Subject was keenly disappointed after reading the letter, stating, "They are playing a game with me." Even at this late date, Subject's attitude is still unchanged.

5. In light of the above facts, this case is referred to you with the request that a decision be reached regarding Subject's resettlement status and ultimate disposal. Subject will accept resettlement only in Greece.

☐ ☐ ☐
J. C. KING
CWH

Attachments:

Attachment "A" SE Requesting Memorandum
Attachment "B" WH Accepting Memorandum
Attachment "C" PRQ Parts I & II

SECRET
Security Information

5665-17964

SECRET
Security Information

Attachment "A"

Copy of SE Division Requesting Memorandum

5 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

ATTENTION : [] Chief, Branch 3

SUBJECT : Request for Resettlement in DTROBALO

1. Confirming the conversation of 31 December 1952 between [] and [] of SE, it is requested that the necessary arrangements be completed to accept Destan Berisha, an Albanian, on or about 20 January 1953, for resettlement through the facilities of DTROBALO. Subject was infiltrated by this Division from Greece into Albania during 1951.

2. Berisha's resettlement presents no security problem of any sort. In the light of certain developments which require his immediate removal from Greece and since he performed his mission in a most satisfactory manner, this Division desires to reward the subject's services by resettlement and is prepared to release him completely from any further commitments.

3. In general, Berisha's operations background is as follows: Subject was part of an OSO intelligence team which was airdropped into Albania in the late Spring of 1951. After completing his mission, Berisha returned to Greece in the late Summer of the same year. Curtailment of further operations aimed at this particular objective resulted in the temporary placement of subject in the IRO camp at Lavrion, Greece where he resides at the present.

4. Immediate movement of Berisha is necessary since he has become involved in a domestic scandal, resulting from his getting a Greek girl with child. To protect the security of our operations during court action the Greek authorities have temporarily mollified the girl's parents by stating that Berisha will be expelled from the country. All efforts to accomplish this by placing Subject in the CIA-controlled Albanian Guard Company in Germany or be disposal through PEP channels have been without success. Consequently, DTROBALO appears to offer the only resettlement possibility for this man consistent with his service to us.

5. This memorandum constitutes Part I of Berisha's dossier, Parts II-V will be forwarded to WH in the immediate future. It is requested that WH give final confirmation by 6 January 1953 at the latest so that Berisha may come forward to DTROBALO on the black flight of 15 January from Frankfurt. A telephone call to [] at x-3974 will suffice.

SECRET
Security Information

s/ []
Chief, SE

56-6-5-17964

SECRET
Security Information

Attachment "B"

Copy of WHD Accepting Memorandum

9 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE Division

ATTENTION : []

SUBJECT : Acceptance of Destan Berisha by DTROBALO

1. Subject is accepted for processing through Project DTROBALO as a candidate for resettlement. It is understood that there are no security considerations inherent in this subject's resettlement, and therefore, WH Division makes no commitment as to the length of time subject will remain at DTROBALO.

2. WHD would appreciate more comprehensive background and assessment information on this subject as soon as it is available, as was promised by SE Division.

3. All details concerning travel will be communicated immediately upon receipt by SE Division to: WH Division, Branch IV, Attention [] , Extension 3980, 2206 Quarters Eye.

s/
J. C. KING
CWH

WH/JCK/BWH/RTM/rb

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Security Information

Attachment "C"

(PERSONAL RECORD QUESTIONNAIRE)

/PRQ/

PART I - BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- Instruction: 1. Write clearly.
2. Answer all questions completely. If question does not apply, write "not applicable"
3. Attach blank pages if additional space is needed.

1. Full Name Destan BEFRISHA
First Middle Last
2. Name in native script Same as 1
3. Name at birth (if different from 1.) _____
4. Aliases, nicknames, legal changes (State briefly time, reason and place of use.) None
5. a. Date of birth 15 June 1922 b. Place of birth Billushe-Prizren-
Kusova, Yugoslavia
6. Present citizenship, race if appropriate Yugoslavian
7. Nationality at birth and any subsequent nationalities (if different from 6.) Albanian at birth and subsequently Yugoslavian
8. Present residence (Owner, tenant, sub-tenant.) DTROBALO
Previously Safe House-Athens
9. Permanent address (if different from 8.) _____
10. Present occupation (full title, salary etc.) Agent
11. Naturalization of subject or of close relatives in the United States.
(Give date and name in which certificate granted.) None
12. Relatives, friends, correspondents in United States. (Explain relationship) None

/PRQ/

13. Father - full name, occupation, present residence, year and place of birth, nationality at birth and subsequent nationalities.

Sait Berisha, deceased 1920; Albanian

14. Mother - same information as 13.

Xame, deceased in 1940

15. Wife (or husband) - full name, maiden name, date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, nationality at birth and any subsequent nationalities, present residence, divorce, annulment. (Give data for all previous marriages.)

Hanem SHAH SHASHS; Approx. age 40; born in Hoxle Prizren; married in Bellushe in 1942; Albanian National and Yugoslav citizen.

16. Children - full names, sex, year and place of birth, nationality at birth and any subsequent nationalities, present residence.

None

17. Brothers and sisters - Same information as 16.

Female—Sherife; age 40; born in Bellushe Prizren; married to Ayet XHELA

Female—Salle; age 34; born in Bellushe Prizren; married in Brezen-Prizren to Abdyl BRAHIMI

Female—Aishe; age 33; born in Bullushe Prizren; married in Libecer, Prizren to Selam KARAMANI

/PRQ/

18. Relatives in service of any government, names and positions held.

None

19. List all official identity papers held with dates, numbers, place of issue and duration of validity.

None (They were held in Italy)

20. Religion - degree practiced, membership in religious orders

Moslem

21. Present and past political affiliations

None

22. Travel outside country of present residence - country, dates, purpose, people and firms visited

Traveled as refugee in Italy in 1949

23. Education - school, location, course, degree, dates

None

24. Languages and dialects (Indicate proficiency as good, fair, poor.)

Language Albanian Speak Fair Read Fair Understand good

Language Serbian Speak poor Read _____ Understand poor

Language _____ Speak _____ Read _____ Understand _____

/FRQ/

25. Military service - dates, country, unit, rank, duty, where services performed, decorations, when discharged, why. Give details if ever prisoner of war

None

26. Present and past membership in organizations (professional, social, political, etc.)

None

27. Special skills, abilities, hobbies (radio, photography, etc.)

None

28. Financial status - earnings, bank deposits, securities, property

None

29. Employment history - type of work, salary, dates, employers, addresses, reasons for leaving. Include employment by any government.

None

29. (Continued)

30. Has subject done any writing? Give details including titles of books, articles, publishers, dates. None

31. List persons living at same address, close associates, (individuals or groups,) correspondents at home and abroad. Not applicable

32. List five character references.

None

/PRQ/

33. Court record - court, date, arrests, charges, punishments, sentences, acquittals, denazification, etc.

None

34. Description (Use American standards of measurement, if possible.)

Age <u>Thirty-eight (37)</u>	Posture <u>Erect</u>
Apparent age <u>Same</u>	Weight <u>185 (approx.)</u>
Height <u>5'7"</u>	Teeth <u>Two silver metal teeth</u>
Eyes <u>Dark Eyes</u>	Hair <u>Dark Brown-curly</u>
Face - shape <u>Round</u>	Scars <u>None</u>
Complexion <u>Light Tan</u>	Build <u>Stocky</u>
Sex <u>Male</u>	
General appearance <u>Neat and clean</u>	
Prominent features <u>2 silver teeth</u>	
Other identifying features <u>None</u>	

35. Other miscellaneous biographical data and comments. None

SECRET

PERSONAL RECORD QUESTIONNAIRE

PART II - OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

/PRQ/

INSTRUCTIONS TO CASE OFFICER:

1. If feasible, subject should fill in Part I of PRQ in his own hand.
 2. Part II of PRQ is classified, must be filled in by the Case Officer and is not to be shown to subject.
 3. Headquarters will not be able to provide an Operational Clearance unless it receives answers to all questions on page 1 of Part I (Items 1 to 12), and to all questions of Part II (Items 35 to 58).
 4. In emergency these answers, keyed to Items 1 to 12 by number, and with summary of Part II, may be cabled to Headquarters, followed promptly by pouch with complete data.
 5. Fully completed PRQ must be sent to Headquarters as soon as possible, two copies of Part I (including copy in subject's handwriting, if possible) and one copy of Part II.
 6. Data acquired later must be sent to Headquarters in PRQ format on a continuing basis.
 7. All pages of both parts will bear the PRQ number, composed of (a) Station symbol; (b) PRQ (c) number assigned consecutively by the field station; e.g. PGA/PRQ/10.
36. Cryptonym THROW-OFF/3
37. How, when and where was subject first contacted or developed?
In ☐ Office approximately the 27th of November 1950.
38. Could subject be turned over quickly and in a secure manner to someone else for handling? To whom? Not at the present time.
39. Best estimate of subject's motivation Patriotism. Subject is very Anti-Communist and Anti-Slav.

SECRET

/PRQ/

40. With what agencies and files has subject's name been checked? When?

Result? What else has been done to verify biographical information furnished by subject? It is assumed that subject's name was checked when recruited by DECADAL, through our office in []

41. What control exists over subject at present? How can it be increased?

He is loyal to his chief, DECADAL. It can be increased when DECADAL is authorized to spend some time with him in order to boost his morale. His activity in the future, working for us, will increase our control over him.

42. For what service does he think he is working? What does he think

becomes of his information? Subject has been told that he is working for the Americans. He believes that this information is sent to the United States.

43. Explain fully subject's past or present connection with any

intelligence service. Subject is believed to have been recruited by DECADAL and on behalf of our service in [] He was dropped into northeast Albania on 25 June 1950.

44. What type of information has subject furnished? What type is he

best qualified by education and experience to furnish? Give evaluation of information received.

None. Military and underground information.

- 8 -
SECRET

SECRET

/PRQ/

45. If subject's duties are to be other than intelligence gathering, explain.

46. Has he been given special training as an agent? Explain.

It is believed that Subject was trained in Italy.

47. How and from whom does he obtain information?

Observation and from his countrymen.

48. Is it proposed to pay subject a regular salary? If so, amount per week, month, etc. Explain any other methods of payment, such as exchange commodities. No salary. At this stage nothing but maintenance has been authorized from Headquarters. Later a lump sum is to be given to him to discharge his duties assigned to him on the mission.

49. Have any promises or commitments whatsoever (not covered elsewhere in this form) been made to subject? Explain. Subject has been promised to see DECADAL without whom he is reluctant to undertake the mission. Originally the subject was recruited by DECADAL in Italy.

50. Are subject's language abilities and other characteristics such that he could pass as a native of a country or region other than his own? Explain. No.

- 9 -
SECRET

SECRET

/PRQ/

51. What is subject's social standing? Aristocracy, upper middle class,
lower middle class, peasantry, etc.? Peasantry.

52. What are subject's personal habits? Liquor, drugs, gambling, mistresses
or lovers? Smoking.

53. Evaluation of subject's character, reliability, security.

Observation indicates that he is reliable and security conscious.

54. With what other foreign power would subject be most likely to
collaborate because of his ideology, obligation, etc.? Explain.

Being a follower of DECADEAL it is difficult to determine what other power
he would serve.

55. What special abilities, talents, or qualifications are possessed by
subject which would conceivably be of value for other operations in
the future?

Subject is brave and familiar with the area.

56. Attach samples of subject's signature and handwriting in all languages
known to him, also a recent, dated photograph, and fingerprints.

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/PRQ/

57. How was information in Part I obtained?
Direct interrogation.

58. Other miscellaneous operational data and comments.

Subject is originally from Kusova area. During King Zog's regime he escaped from Kosova in approximately 1930 and entered Albania where he was given land in Fier, Central Albania, this section he knows well.

Subject has no education but enjoys a reputation of being a man of character both in Albania and Kusova.

Case officer

- 11 -
SECRET